

Service Date: March 27, 2003

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE REGULATION
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

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IN THE MATTER of the Application)	
of BLACK HILLS CORPORATION d/b/a)	UTILITY DIVISION
BLACK HILLS POWER, Inc.)	DOCKET NO. D2002.12.158
for Authority to Decrease its Quarterly)	DEFAULT ORDER NO. 6473
Fuel Rate Rider.)	

On December 23, 2002, Black Hills Corporation d/b/a Black Hills Power Inc. (BHP or Applicant) filed a petition with the Montana Public Service Commission pursuant to § 69-3-101 et seq., MCA, for an order authorizing the Applicant to decrease its electric rates in order to reflect the decreased cost of fuel used in the generation of electricity. The fuel costs concerned are for the months of September, October and November 2002.

On December 26, 2002, the Commission issued a Notice of Opportunity for Public Hearing. A provision in that notice stated, "If, however, no hearing is requested by January 26, 2003, the Commission will consider the matter and a default order may be issued."

Having considered the application and the documentation furnished by the Applicant in support of its application and deeming itself fully advised in the premises, the Commission makes the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. If decreased fuel costs for the months of September, October and November 2002, are to be recovered, a credit of (\$.00610) must be subtracted from the base fuel cost of \$.01240 approved in Docket No. 83.4.25, which results in a total fuel charge of \$.00630 per Kwh. The Quarterly Fuel Rate Rider will decrease revenues by approximately \$21,697 below fuel costs authorized in Docket No. 83.4.25.
2. The number of customers presently being served in Montana is 35.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Commission has jurisdiction over parties and proceeding in this matter.
2. The resulting rate levels are reasonable and just.

ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. The Quarterly Fuel Rate Rider for the billing period of February, March and April 2003 is (\$.00610) per kWh. This credit shall be subtracted from the base fuel cost approved in Docket No. 83.4.25.
2. The approved rates shall be effective for electric service rendered on and after February 1, 2003.

DONE IN OPEN SESSION at Helena, Montana, on this 28th day of January, 2003, by a vote of 5 -0.

BY ORDER OF THE MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

BOB ROWE, Chairman

TOM SCHNEIDER, Vice Chairman

GREG JERGESON, Commissioner

MATT BRAINARD, Commissioner

JAY STOVALL, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Rhonda J. Simmons
Commission Secretary

(SEAL)

NOTE: Any interested party may request the Commission to reconsider this decision. A motion to reconsider must be filed within ten (10) days. See ARM 38.2.4806.